She's beckoning for us to come
Hey, there's someone over there Someone white
Toeru
But
There's no one there You must be seeing things.
You can see a white hand?
It's beckoning us over See Fukiko-chan?
Oh yes. But you know Toeru
You mustn't follow it
That isn't anything human
Yeah look. Over there
Byakuya
Zaushi
-Invitation-

Promise me Understand?
—My older cousin said that with a lonely expression
When I was around ten she suddenly vanished
Or the reason why she vanished
I don't know if she's alive or dead
That's what everyone said
But I know
That she went where that white hand led

Byakuya Zanshi
~INVITATION~

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And I too
OH MY IF IT ISN'T KISAKA-SAN'S.
OH IS THAT TOORU-KUN?
YOU'VE COME BACK? MY HOW YOU'VE GROWN... I HEARD YOU WENT TO UNI-VERSITY IN TOKYO...
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER SO LONG MY UNIVERSITY IS ON SUMMER BREAK RIGHT NOW
I SEE I'VE HEARD THERE'S A GET-TOGETHER AT YOUR HOME TONIGHT SO MAKE SURE TO SAY HELLO TO EVERYONE
OF COURSE...
OH!
SONOKO-CHAN! TOORU-KUN'S COME HOME!

TOORU LONG TIME NO SEE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE COME BACK HOME
SHOCK
...!!
...WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU FORGET ME?
...NO, IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG...
FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT IT WAS FUKIKO-SAN...

Fukiko was Soneko's older sister by ten years...
...MY SISTER... SHE WAS ABOUT MY AGE NOW WHEN SHE VANISHED, WASN'T SHE?
CHUCKLE
AND SHE WAS MY SISTER. IT'S HARDLY ODD THAT YOU'D THINK THAT...
The two sisters were very close and Soneko always stuck close to Fukiko...
I GUESS SO...
THAT WHITE DRESS... IS THAT A MEMENTO FROM FUKIKO-SAN?
BUT IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO HEAR THAT I LOOK LIKE MY SISTER.
SINCE PEOPLE SAID I WAS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING COMPARED TO HER...

I'm still bound here—
...No matter how many years pass this place never changes...
IT IS THE CURSE OF ITO'S POND
A girl named Ito was a servant to a wealthy farm family. She fell in love with a young man in the village.
But the family was terribly poor so the young man abandoned Ito for another woman
Though Ito fell hopelessly in love with the young man she had become a nuisance to him so he and his friends lured her out to a pond in the mountains...
And he pushed her into the pond...
OH, THERE GOES GRANDMA YOTSU AGAIN WITH HER TALES
IT'S THE STORY ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS PUSHED INTO A POND IN THE MOUNTAINS AND DIED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

"I will curse you and the people of this village for all time."
While he sank into the pond, she glared up at them with a frightening facial expression and said,"
The young man and his friends laughed at her saying,
"Who would ever seriously want a dirt poor girl like you as his wife?"
THAT'S QUITE THE STORY, GRANDMA. BUT...
AND TO THIS DAY, SHE BECKONS TO US FROM THE SHADE OF A TREE INVITING US TO SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE POND WITH HER
RU.
TOORU
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ITO'S POND ACTUALLY IS, RIGHT?
IT MIGHT HAVE DRIED UP A LONG TIME AGO

YANK
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOORU?!
...
WHERE WERE YOU GOING, TOORU?!
OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WITH BARE FEET...
...
And the day that Fukiko-san disappeared, too—
...OH...
...
BUT THE HAND... IT WAS BECK-ONING ME...
That kind of thing happened countless times
And those times I didn't even know why I was there...

SO-NOKO-SAN
I KNOW HOW THAT TALE CONTINUES
THAT YOU COULD SEE IT, TOO
THE WHITE HAND
MY SISTER WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD SEE THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T
AND SHE SAID...
THE YOUNG MAN WHO PUSHED THAT POOR GIRL INTO THE POND WAS PUSHED INTO THE POND BY HIS OWN WIFE
AFTER THAT, THE WOMAN WAS PUSHED INTO THE POND BY HER OWN CHILD... AND THAT'S HOW ITO'S CURSE CONTINUES THROUGH ALL TIME
IF MY SISTER FOLLOWED THAT WHITE HAND...
AND IF SOMEONE PUSHED HER INTO THE POND AFTER THAT...

WAS THE ONE WHO PUSHED MY SISTER IN YOU...?
SHUDDER
IT'S JUST A JOKE

SPLASH
JERK
.....!

...THAT DREAM AGAIN... I'VE HAD THAT DREAM OVER AND OVER AGAIN SINCE I WAS A CHILD...
HUFF
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THAT PLACE...
I WAS SLEEPING...
—I've never been there...?
—Why am I this uneasy...?
WATER
THERE'S NO WAY! WHY WOULD I GO SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT...
—NO!
Really?
—Was the one who pushed my sister in you?
YES BUT STILL...

...SO THE MEN ARE STILL UP DRINKING...
AND SONO-KO-SAN
SPEAKING OF WHICH, ABOUT THAT KID OF TORII-SAN'S...
Chatter
Chatter
OH, THE ONE WHO VANISHED BEFORE FUKIKO...
SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO, WASN'T IT
YEAH...
THE DAY THAT KID VANISHED FUKIKO WENT UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS ON HER OWN FOR SOME REASON AND CAUSED A HUGE FUSS.
THAT'S ITO'S CURSE IT'S BECOME QUITE THE TALK OF THE TOWN
NO WAY
WORD IS THAT TORII-SAN'S KID WAS PUSHED IN BY FUKIKO
THAT STORY HAS GONE ON LIKE THAT FOR AGES...
There was someone who went missing...?
Could Fukiko-san have pushed that person...
And then I to Fukiko-san...

Flicker
...COULD THAT REALLY...
BUT
Maybe I should see myself... If it's like it is in the dream
That isn't anything human. You must not follow it
If I really did push Fukiko-san in...
THAT'S RIGHT
Wobble
...NO
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I CAME BACK

—I saw this in my dream
I REALLY HAVE COME HERE BEFORE—?
SO I REALLY
AND I'VE JUST FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING

And the white dress fluttering in the wind.
I remember seeing this.
SLIDE
IS THIS ITO'S POND...?

GRAB
GASP
.....!
SONG... KO-SAN
....
GULP
WHY... ARE YOU HERE ?
I CAUGHT YOU LEAV-ING THE HOUSE, SO I FOLLOWED YOU...
....THE WHITE HAND INVITED YOU TO COME HERE, RIGHT?

I WONDER WHY YOU AND MY SISTER COULD SEE IT, BUT I CAN'T.....
IF I COULD SEE THE WHITE HAND, I WOULD FOLLOW IT WITHOUT HESITATION.
SO-NOKO-SAN!
HEY
MY SISTER WAS ALWAYS LOOKING OFF SOMEWHERE IN THE DIS-TANCE.....
EVEN I'M ALWAYS LOOKING INTO THE TREES BEHIND ME OR INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE MOUNTAIN.....
I WONDER IF EVERYONE CAN SEE SOMETHING SOME-WHERE...
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO SEE THINGS THAT PEOPLE CAN'T SEE...?
DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SOMEONE SPECIAL, LIKE YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN?
OR IS IT JUST A NUI-SANCE?
.....
...BUT MY SISTER ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS SPECIAL — ONLY YOU.
WAS THAT BE-CAUSE
YOU SAW THE SAME THING AS HER...?
TOGIRI

...DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO WENT MISSING FROM THIS VILLAGE?
IT WAS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN
...MY SISTER TOLD ME SOMETHING SHE HADN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE BEFORE SHE VANISHED
SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS LED HERE BY A WHITE HAND BECKONING HER.
AND PUSHED THAT PERSON, SOMEONE SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH, INTO THE POND HERE
—Oh
—It wasn't a dream...It wasn't all a dream...

Fuuko-san knew that I was the person who would push her in so she was afraid of me

There really was a curse...

I WONDER IF THAT'S "ITO'S CURSE"

TOUCH...
TOORU
...WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SHAKING
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF ?
SO-NOKO-SAN
ARE YOU GOING TO PUSH ME INTO THIS POND ...?
BECAUSE I TOOK YOUR PRECIOUS SISTER AWAY FROM YOU...
BECAUSE I PUSHED FUKIKO-SAN INTO THIS POND...!!
TOORU
...!
shake
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAP-PENED

THE CURSE IS A CHAIN THAT BINDS YOU AND MY SISTER. PLEASE, MAKE ME A LINK IN THAT CHAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO PUSH ME INTO THE POND.
WHA
THAT DAY, I FOLLOWED MY SISTER WHEN SHE WENT UP THE MOUNTAIN ROAD INVITED BY THAT WHITE HAND
AND BEFORE YOU FINALLY GOT THERE, I PUSHED MY SISTER INTO THE POND
DON'T YOU GET IT?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL MY SISTER
BUT YOU DIDN'T KILL HER.

IF YOU PUSH ME IN, I CAN FINALLY BECOME THE NEXT LINK IN THE CURSE !
I'LL BE SPECIAL TOO, FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF MY SPECIAL SISTER....
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I WANT !
COME ON
TOORU
... OKAY?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
... ST...

BHM
... STOP ...!!
gasp
.....!

SPLASH

And just now in that one instant I became the next link in the curse—
I had been seeing the future ...
Seeing what happened just now in Semura ...
In that moment, I understood it perfectly.

Tsukiya Zanshi ~Invitation~ / End

Greeting
Byakuya Zanshi
Burial

Fallen Invitation

Byakuya Zanshi